(b) No, Sir. As per preliminary investigation, the said crashes of two MIG 21 were due to malfunction of main fuel pump and not due to spares.

(c) Exact causes of accidents are under joint investigation by specialists from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Indian Air Force, Centre for Military Air Worthiness Certification (CEMILAC) and Director General Aeronautics Quality and Assurance (DGAQA).

Indo-France joint exercises

790. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that France will conduct combat exercises with the Indian Air Force in Gwalior next year;

(b) if so, the number of exercises likely to be performed ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Air Force has recently been trained by the Air Forces of some other countries; and

(d) if so, what are the names of such countries ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One.

(c) Some IAF personnel have been trained by the air forces of friendly countries on reciprocal basis, as part of international defence cooperation.

(d) The major countries with which IAF has such defence cooperation programmes are USA, UK, France, Russia, Australia etc.

Benefits of Indo-US joint military exercises

791. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indo-US military exercises have taken place during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits derived by our defence forces therefrom;

(c) whether these exercises also covered combating nuclear war;

(d) whether such joint exercises have also been carried out recently with Pakistan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It would not be in the national interest to give details of such joint exercises.

(d) No, Sir. No such joint exercises have been carried out recently between India and Pakistan.

(e) Does not arise.

Setting up new Coast Guard Stations

792. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up 10 new coast guard stations along different coasts of the country to check the rising smuggling activity and to facilitate greater maritime operations;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) whether the Ministry has got the approval from the Ministry of Finance?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A proposal to set up 10 new Boat Stations by Coast Guard in a phased manner is being processed. The places tentatively selected are :—

West Coast -Vadinar (Gujarat), Jafarabad or Pipavav (Gujarat), Ratnagiri (Maharashtra), Bhatkal or Malpe (Karnataka), Beypore (Kerala) and Kavaratti in Lakshadeep.

East Coast - Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh), Gopalpur (Orissa) and Pondicherry.

Andaman & Nicobar - Kamorta.

Induction of IL-78 Aircraft

793. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) by when the Indian Air Force will induct IL-78 aircraft;

(b) by when the Air Force is going to get Mirage 2000 fighters fitted with air-to-air refuelling capability; and